

**OPENING REMARKS: PANDEMIC FLU SUMMIT**  
**AUGUST 3, 2007**  
**8:00 AM SHERATON WEST**

I am Virgil R. Hazelett, County Manager, County of Henrico, and I would like to thank each of you for taking the time out today to attend this Health Department sponsored Pandemic Flu Summit. This Summit represents a collaborative partnership with each of you as we prepare for an event which we will hope never happens.

Why are you here?

Each of you represents a business organization, health care organization, non-profit, governmental agency, faith community organization, or most importantly a citizen involved in the County. A pandemic is something that we read about or hear about through the media, but we always think about it occurring some place else. Without diverse business community, it is not unusual for our citizens to travel by air to job sites across the United States or around the world. In fact in June, 2007 there were 336,000 boardings at Richmond International Airport, which is a large number of people moving into and out of our community. In fact there were more people boarding at the airport than our 293,382 residents in the County. So we are a very mobile region and nation.

Second, Henrico County's various agencies working with other local governments, State agencies and the medical and health care community have developed an attachment to the County's Emergency Operations Plan to address how the County plans to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the threat from pandemic influenza. However, no plan can be effective without communicating it to you and without actually testing the plan through an exercise such as today or actual practice such as the County wide mass vaccination clinics that we ran last fall. Most importantly, no plan can be effective unless we have feedback from individuals like you.

Today you will learn about the critical components of the County's Pandemic Flu Plan beginning with the Health Department's surveillance networks, our Infection/Outbreak Control process, our Mitigating Plan and finally our Public Information Education efforts.

We will go into each of these plan components in more detail during the activities today. However, now I would like to introduce you to Delegate John O'Bannon.